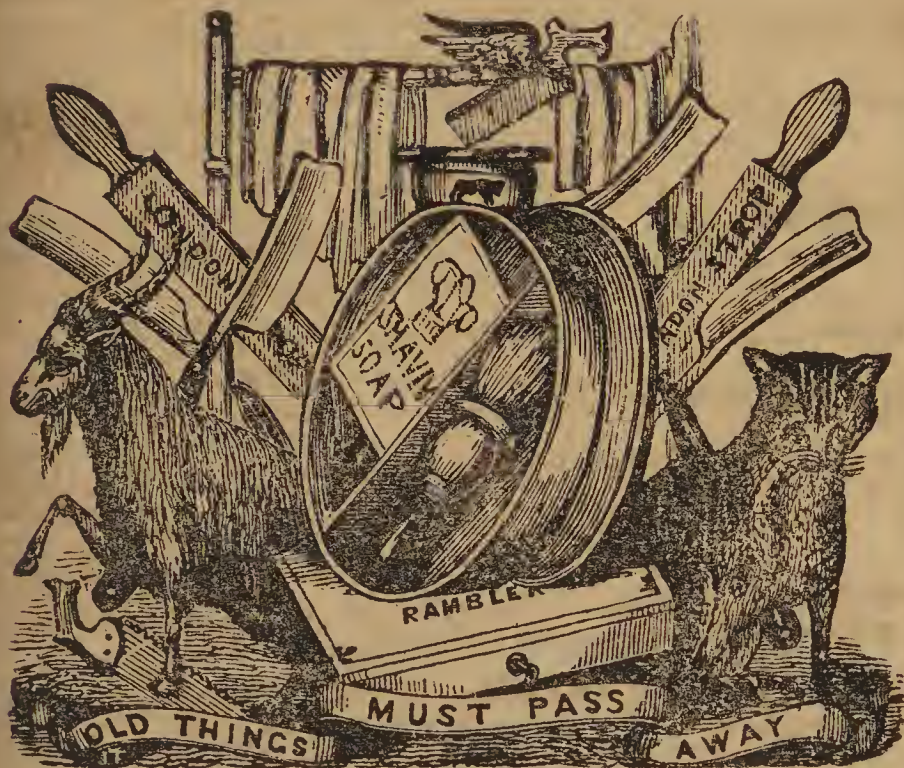


# MY RAZOR AND SHAVING TACKLE!

AS IT OUGHT TO BE; AND AS IT OUGHT-N'T.



HOW TO SHAVE WITHOUT

(ILLUSTRATED WITH)

GREAT PAINS AND LITTLE CUTS,  
BY JNO. TEETGEN,

10, BISHOPSGATE STREET, WITHOUT.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

[PRICE THREEPENCE.]

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

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# TO MY READERS.

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GENTLEMEN,

To you I respectfully address myself. In submitting this attempt to public notice, I am influenced by a two-fold motive: to draw the attention of the male public to the peculiar merits of the "DIAMOND-EDGE, UNPOLISHED TALLY HO! RAZOR," (a perfection of modern science,) and to offer some useful and needful knowledge of an implement, the most delicate in constitution that art can form or necessity demand. This tract does not aspire to the character of anything higher than the accomplishment of the avowed design.

Some of the positions taken will, perhaps, be found novel; yet it is believed that the reasons given with each conclusion arrived at, will on examination prove fully satisfactory. Most persons have been previously instructed on this subject, and told to do such-and-such a thing with their Razors; but the reason why, neither instructor nor learner has been conscious of; and not knowing clearly the effect of either doing or leaving undone, lose sight of the important consequences—do wrong, or leave right neglected.

By chance looking into a book, now 122 years old, I was forcibly struck with part of the preface thereto (by the author), which appeared so graceful, simple, and clearly expressive of the real design, and applicable to my position, that I resolved to borrow it.

“It is not intended to treat this matter in a pompous declamatory way, whereby *truth* and *falsehood* are equally capable of being rendered *plausible* and put forth with success, and which ought, therefore, to be rejected by every one who desires to distinguish one from the other. Here nothing is meant, but to propose things in the *shortest* and *plainest* method; and to use such *reasonings* and *arguments* as will not apply to *false notions*, howsoever ingeniously contrived.”

Requesting a polite and attentive perusal of my little manual, with assurance, that whether it be to procure proper handling of the Razors in which I have interest, “The Diamond-edge Unpolished, or better and more proper treatment of those previously in use, there are few persons (professors among the rest) who will not find themselves improved in knowledge and skill thereby.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, very obediently,

March, 1845.

JNO. TEETGEN



# RAZORS.

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**MY RAZORS!**

**YOUR RAZORS! EVERY ONE'S RAZORS!**

**ALL THE RAZORS! THE RAZOR!**

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THIS IS THE SUBJECT! On them man depends continually for comfort, and so it is an important subject. Is it not better to have a limb amputated, where such a deprivation must be suffered, with inferior, or unconditioned instruments, than to be constantly shaved with an improper Razor? *Every man* must all his life *periodically* undergo the latter operation, while only one poor creature in thousands is driven to the former, perhaps but once in his life. Besides, an amputation must be attended with almost extreme pain, which no skill can avert; whereas, by management and a good tool *no pain* whatever need be endured in shaving.

In every civilised country, this implement has been in constant use for ages past, and now there is scarcely an inhabited spot in the whole world where it is not employed; and in that part called the "civilised" its duties are more extensive than in former years. Yet, for all this, surprising as it may appear, there is hardly one person in ten thousand who is aware of anything about the matter as regards the quality of a Razor, its best form, or size; or, until it be applied to the face, whether it will even do its work or not. Moreover, there is hardly one in ten thousand at this time aware that it is possible to cut the stubby hair from off a tender skin without the operation being felt; yet it is possible, and easy,

provided the instrument be good, and handled with perfect yet readily acquired skill. To establish this I will trouble the reader to note the following facts, which have occurred under my observation in the course of the last past eighteen months, at the commencement of which period the DIAMOND-EDGE UNPOLISHED RAZOR was first brought out.

At the little Repository, 10, Bishopsgate Street, from September 1843 to the present time, upwards of 1500 Razors have been sold, and with every one of which a Signed Warranty given, engaging to return the money paid if the Razor were not fully to the satisfaction of the buyer; and not a single demand has yet been made for the fulfilment of this condition of sale: on the contrary, hundreds have expressed their satisfaction and surprise at their performance, and by recommendation helped to many sales.

On introducing these Razors at Brighton, I one morning left two as samples with Mr. G. B——, E—— Street, (as with all the Hair-dressers,) and requested him to use them during the day. On returning about noon to where I was staying, I found a request waiting, that I would send by bearer two pairs of the same Razors I had left with Mr. B. The following morning he explained to me, that two gentlemen of London came to be shaved shortly after I had left the two pattern Razors: on his finishing the first, the gent. put the question, "Have you shaved me?" Mr. B. replied "Yes!" The gent. then put his hand to his chin, and finding it perfectly smooth, declared his surprise, and that he did not feel the Razor at all. His friend was then operated on with like effect, and each ordered a pair of Razors to be procured that day. *They had never before in their lives been shaved without feeling pain.*

There is at the west foot of Rochester Bridge the little village of Froome, where for years has lived a respectable man, Mr. King, a Hairdresser, on showing to whom my pattern Razors, he took one up, saying, "I'll try this." I wished to strop it first, but he objected. "If it is good," said he, "it will shave as it is;" and smearing his face with cold lather, placed himself before a glass and applied the Razor: when half his chin had been gone over, he turned his head to me, and said, "It does not cut at all." I answered, "Yes it does;" when he put up his hand, and, by the surprise depicted on his countenance, it was evident that he (an elderly professor) had never before been shaved without being sensible of the operation. An order was then given, and two supplies had since.

Mr. B——, Hair-dresser, Bishopsgate Street, after having one of each pattern Razors in use for some time, came to me for a pair to present to Dr. M., of the Ophthalmic Infirmary; by whom Mr. B. had just been cured of a painful disorder in one of his eyes. He said that he felt grateful for the relief, and intended to present Dr. M. with the pair of Razors, believing that from their excellence they would be esteemed, although of such trifling cost.

These few facts are selected, as evidence, that a good Razor, in fine order, will remove a beard clean, without causing *pain* or unpleasant feeling more than would the touch of a *smooth round* piece of steel\*; and any man of ordinary capacity may, by following the instructions here given, acquire the ability to accomplish this. *To keep a perfect angular smooth and keen edge is the object*, and a little study and careful

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\* No man of feeling ought to be content with anything in real effect short of this;—it can be done—and, therefore, every one should be able to do it.



practice must be bestowed to become an adept; it is worth the while; for, to the young it involves, through (perhaps a long) life, periodical torture or luxurious refreshment; to the aged it will afford certain relief from the dreaded pain endured for years, and they will find there is still one (hitherto unknown) comfort to enjoy. We now return to

## THE RAZOR.

There exists a very prevalent wrong notion in the preference given to a light or small Razor, over a moderately heavy or large one; the fancy is, that with the small one there is less likelihood of cutting one's-self. The reverse is the case, most certainly: *I never yet knew any one who after using a weighty Razor could shave to satisfaction with a light one*; and this is in reason, for with a small Razor considerable force is required from the wrist (which *must* give the *weight*) to press it onward, and at the thickest and strongest part of the beard *extra force* to keep it from rebounding, as it will do, or perhaps stop if force lacks; and so the mind is divided between pushing the instrument and guiding, when, on the least over impulse, off it starts beyond command; and a *gash* is the consequence. On the contrary, a heavyish Razor goes on with the *least* motive; there is no sudden stopping, nor *extra* impulse wanted; *it lies steady*, moves regularly on, and shrinks not from an obstinate clump;—the wrist is at perfect liberty;—the attention is not distracted;—you may guide the terrific wretch safely past nose, by mouth, round chin, and over pimple and (oh, most desirable preservation!) without depriving the pride of all, the Whiskers, of a single hair beyond the limited boundary. An efficient Razor



should not be of less weight than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oz., and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 is even better. After quantity, the *body*, comes

### Q U A L I T Y,

the soul of the Razor. Steel of the very finest quality imperatively *must* be used. The art of casting ought to immortalize the originator (it is of our time); all former ages were far short of *certainly* of perfection, for, on the *conversion of iron into steel*, some parts or veins imbibe considerably more carbon than others, which, in the ante-casting times, used to be mingled as generally throughout as possible by repeated forging and folding, re forging and refolding; but now, by the process of *melting*, the steel is reduced to a fluid state, and all its particles are uniformly mingled, when, it is cast into moulds. Then comes the "tilting," which is, heating to a state quite malleable and ductile, and beating out, under ponderous and then small hammers, into fine bars, until it is as fine in grain as china. Steel only, so worked, is fit to make good Razors of.

Skilful *forging* makes the steel still finer; but much yet depends on the work, as it goes through every stage, until, when finished, the instrument becomes either bad, indifferent, or good, or excellence itself. Temper is to a Razor what education is to the man.\* Grinding comes under the head "Form," and Setting is to be treated separately. The next consideration is what

### F O R M

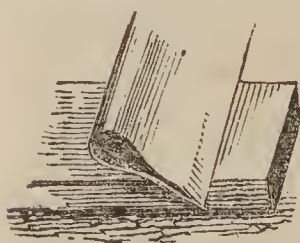
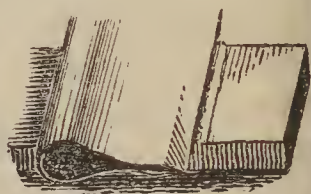
best adapts a Razor for use. When it is said, for *use*, the unadorned *blade* is meant: ornament may be had in blade, handle, and case, corresponding with the accompaniments of the dressing table; and as such

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\* This is more remarked on at another part.



things are pleasing to the eye, for those who desire and can afford them: there is much to praise in elegance of work bestowed thereon, however unimportant as regards the useful qualities, of which only this effort treats.


A scimitar-shaped blade is in general use, and is as good, or perhaps better than any other; but it is of consequence that the back be rounded in the form of half a quill, on which it will easily roll from one side to the other on a strop, without that unpleasant *jump*, which is made with a *square-backed* Razor, which by the blunt scraping of the corners, is likely to tear up the dressing and surface of the strop, doing injury to both it, and, what is more important, the Razor; for when a little ridge is made on a strop, the Razor, going over back first, the edge in its turn passing down the ridge, receives a pressure and friction on its extremity, which greatly reduces the keenness in that part. This, for instance, shows the same action



on the edge, as would be if the back were elevated, and any one can see how prejudicially this must act; therefore, *avoid* the square-backed Razors. The next thing for consideration is the substance

of the Blade, from *under* the back to the *extreme* edge, and of more consequence than the longitudinal form. The more hollow a Razor is ground, the less labour is needed to "set" it (which is by fine gradual friction to bring it to an acute keen angle), and to a certain degree (not considerable) the more intense the keenness will be, this is desirable; but it is also desirable that the edge should last

and bear up against the work it is constantly applied to, which, if the Razor be *too hollow* and *thin* it will not do. Steel being as it were a number of particles adhering together, it is apparent that if made *too thin* in the part under the extreme edge, it will not be durable. On the other hand, one *too thick* is even more objectionable; because, although by having more support it will last longer, it will not cut so easy, even if the edge can be made as keen as the thin one; for, as the hair of the beard is in substance considerably thicker than is the actual edge (the *only part* employed in cutting) of the Razor in depth,\* so the Razor, when in use will get wedged in the half-severed hair; the extra force then required to continue the cut,  bends the hair down, and the Razor passes up, leaving the split hair part behind;  at the same time inflicting excruciating pain. A thinner

edge, as it cuts through, does not force the hair  so much out of its position as does the thick; it can pass through the hair in the same width of space as the thick one will require to go half through. It is plain that a hair being forced into a position considerably out of its perpendicular,


 Fig. 1. has more inclination to bend down than if displaced in a much less degree, as

Fig. 2. This I think is evident, and shows that to have an instrument durable and pleasant working, extremes either way must be avoided. There is in this, as in all other things, a standard of perfection, and if a Razor too thin will, for want of support, break down; and one too thick will not cut easy, and the exact line can be drawn at which a Razor

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\* This is fully represented in treating of the edge.



will bear the edge, and not one line's thickness more;—that is the substance to perfection.

The foregoing has reference to the fine *white line* running along the edge, technically called the “canal,” and where the foundation lies. This line, and also the one running along the side of the back, is the test by which may be discovered whether a *Razor is well ground or not*; it is made in setting, and caused by the hollowness of the sides: where the Razor is thicker this line will be broad, and where thinner it will be narrow; a well-ground blade will have this line perfectly even, and the same width from one end to the other. If the grinding be not *carefully* done, the temper of the steel is altered, and it is often the case that Razors are unfit for use after being unskilfully ground; the friction engenders heat, which in the thin parts soon increases to a degree, or many degrees, above that of the standard of the temper, and the Razor is soft for ever after.

## THE EXTREME EDGE

of a Razor is in depth so infinitely minute, as to bear no comparison: a single filament of a spider's web is more in substance than is the depth of a Razor's edge, and the width is really nothing. An old philosopher has asserted, that “the edge of a well-set Razor is nothing: a thousand is as thick as one, and one as thick as a thousand;” and this in scientific principle must be admitted.

Imagine then, gentlemen, what delicate handling and usage must be necessary to preserve such a creature from harm—the *width nothing, and the depth, the finest line imagination can conceive*, and equalled in extreme only by infinity of space. And

how do some of you use this ariel fairy being? Barbarians! you kill it;—yes, kill it!—destroy, totally destroy it! Use it as carelessly and roughly as a cobbler does his knife, to cut tanned hide. Well, some of you have been punished for your sin, the poor Razor has turned round on you and revenged its own wrong, and—I'll excuse you—you knew no better;—you had no notion of the nature of the thing you were so treating, or you would have acted differently, for your own feeling and in gratitude.

I'll tell you here, that *if you want to preserve the existence of a true Razor-edge*, no notch, nor rust, nor SCRATCH, must ever be allowed to take up its quarters in the same fabric: where either *comes*, the edge *goes*; for, gentlemen, I believe, that in *reality*, and in *principle*,

### A RAZOR IS NOT A SAW;

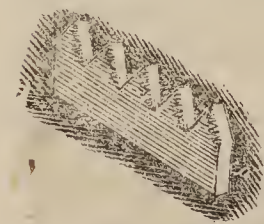
there, for you all, especially Razor-users, I repeat the assertion—"A RAZOR IS NOT A SAW!"—but, say you, "I always *thought* it was;—everybody has told me so!" Grant you, everybody has told you so; but did you ever ask everybody *who* told them so? I'll be bound not; and if you had, everybody would have answered, "Oh! *everybody*," or somebody else. I *have* inquired, and got *such* replies. Well, sirs, this does not make a Razor a saw; let me attempt to establish the negative on philosophical principles.

First then, a saw is the design and invention of man, made *purposely* to perform a particular work which NOTHING *but a saw* could perform; the saw being in itself a multiplicity of chisels, with each chisel doing its part, by a straight-forward *broadside* cut, and each in its turn receiving assistance from

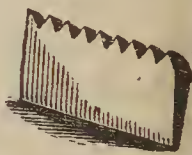
the others as *guides*, like the *wooden* guide of a plane. There is nothing pre-disposing the steel to be a saw; the action is not a natural one. A *chisel* to a saw, a saw to a *file*, and all from a *knife*, have been the progressive inventions of mechanism, each in action departing from its original, the knife; which cuts by a “*slash*,” the others by a “*jag*” cut.

Well, then, if nature never made or designed a *chisel*, *saw*, or *file*, how is it that when man produced a Razor, whose action (a knife cut) is the first and *only* natural one, nature steps in, for the first time, and turns it into a saw? Did she do so? Doubtful! Had the man who first constructed a Razor a notion he was making a saw? No! Thus far there is no analogy. But let us have proof to (if reasonable proof will) satisfy all. There are several sorts of saws; miniature, worked by the hand, and gigantic ones by powerful steam; but in all, from small to great, the teeth are so constructed that they extend side-ways beyond the body of the saw; so that the chasm is cut wider than the body is thick, making room for it to pass through or along, cutting deeper and deeper into the being-divided body. In small saws, circular or straight moving, the part all below the teeth is thinner than where the teeth are formed; and some have a “*curf*”

or fine ridge of steel formed on the teeth by the file when cutting them; cutting only one way, this widens the cut channel. Those for cutting key-holes, and other small openings, are



formed like a Razor reversed, edge thick, and back thin; this makes the cut wider than the body of the tool. Large saws have a “*set*” on

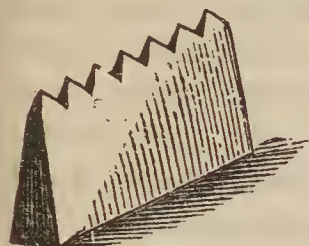






the teeth; that is, they are bent alternately, in contrary directions.

This arrangement makes the cut chasm wider than the thickness of the body.



Submit a saw, made on the principle of a Razor's edge, to any practical or scientific person, and he will tell you that no power could work such an one: for, if made acute it would fix itself so

fast, as to resist the greatest power; and if obtuse, it would perhaps break, or fly out of the partially cut body, rending the works, however solid, if weaker than itself, and wreck would be the consequence. Now the principle of the working of a saw is different to that of a knife, for while the former tears its way by reducing what opposes its progress into small particles "dust," the latter *severs* clean, and without an atom of dust, by *dividing* the connected fibres, or parts of the body, softer than itself, or by a sudden blow, as does a chopper.

This, I think, indisputably shows that if the Razor's really were a saw-edge, it would be impossible to cut a hair through, for the hair being so much larger than the supposed teeth, it would as soon as they got below their depth, fix tight, and there stop. Here is a fair drawn inference, according to the principle on which, as it has been shown, a saw *must* work; and although, owing to the small substance of a hair, and the obstinacy of the steel, the hair would give way; yet it could not be cut through without extreme pain, and then not *clean cut*.

It might as well be said that the food we are daily supported by is deadly poison, because it contains the elements of poison, as that a Razor, because the

steel (as do all bodies) contains the elements of irregularity (pores), is a saw.

The incision of an awl, and the hole made by a gimlet, are quite different in principle: one only separates the parts of a body by dividing them; the other *takes part out* to make room for itself: so is the difference exactly of a knife *severing* and a saw *cutting*.

It has been the endeavour of all workers of steel into fine tools, to work it up till the pores are so fine as scarcely to exist, and if they could render it poreless they would; and yet (how *inconsistent!*) they tell you that “without teeth they would *not* cut.” But they will and do; and if by greatly distorting the appearance of the natural body some irregularity may be found on the edge of a Razor, it does not on that account follow that it is, or, acts as, a “saw-edge.”

When a Razor is first taken from the hone after being set, if passed across the end of the finger nail, the touch all along is perfectly even; put it in that state on the face, and then, although without anything deserving of, or answering to, the name of teeth; the edge is so rough, that it will punish any one curious enough to try an experimental shave: and it will not operate well till this roughness, of which the beard is most sensitive, be removed by smooth stroping.

Instead of *teeth*, or the least *roughness* being *necessary*, the object must be to get the edge as smooth as by any means we possibly can; those who attain this will have the easiest shaving time of it. The Razor, that with a Stanhope or other powerful lens will develope teeth, is not fit to *shave* a hog with; and I declare, that a good Razor, perfectly

set, will, when submitted to such a test, show a *perfectly clear smooth edge*, and such is the one to preserve, and the only one to shave, not only *without pain*, but *with pleasure*. On this fatal mistake lies all mismanagement of Razors; persons ignorant on this subject, believing that they *must have teeth*, think they can effect an *improvement* by making some, and use stuff on their strops, which every time the Razors pass over inflicts numerous *scratches*, that really on the edge terminate in *teeth* (teeth in a saw being only regularly cut notches); some larger, some smaller, corresponding with the size of the particles of grit they are made by.

Keep me and all friends from such Razors! I am content with one as *smooth*, free from *scratches*, *notches*, and *pores*, as steel can be brought to; with a *keen level knife-cutting edge*. Such an one will shave *all beards*, from the down just merging into incipient hair on the youth's face, to the almost "horny" stumps, thick studded and close crowded, on the chin of robust-middle, or old age.

The illustration of the "wedging" shows (however contrary to general opinion) that the thin Razor will pass easier through a strong beard than will a thick one. But certainly, as the work is heavy, it will not endure so long at it as a well supported edge.

Another erroneous notion is, that

## A RAZOR'S EDGE IMPROVES BY LYING BY,

or by time. This is a most extraordinary idea, and when I first heard it, could not repress a smile, although unprepared to contradict it. I have since found it very generally believed. Time is a great master chemist, and in his way works as no



other power can ; but, as a mechanist, Time has not yet entered an apprenticeship ; hence, if he does interfere with the Razor's edge at all, it must be by chemical action (decomposition), and consequently destroy instead of improve it. The following explanation of the phenomenon will, perhaps, stand the test of *reason* :—If a person lay by a Razor, he must have another one to use ; this I take as granted. Very well : having two, and finding one to cut easier than the other, he naturally lets the lazy one rest, and the willing one do all the work. This goes on for a month or two, when by constant use the Razor that was so very sharp, and shaved so well, becomes rather dull ;—“Yesterday it did not cut well—it hurt me dreadfully ; and although I went over twice, did not shave clean ! To-day, my face is tender, and, oh ! confound it, it will not shave ! What shall I do ? Try the other ?—I must.” When, lo !—the one, that two months ago would *not cut*, now, most surprising ! *does*—capital ! How is it ? has *this* Razor altered ? No ! *the other Razor has* !—in constant use, the one that was so *sharp* has become so blunt, that the one that was so blunt is now the *sharper of the two*.

So has it been with coats and hats laid by as too shabby for wear : we hack another, till that gets worse ; and then, on again seeing the old lain-by one, we wonder how we could think it past use. “It's really better than the one in wear.” But there is no mystery here—this is better understood—no supposing the coat has regained its lost colour or nap. And why not, pray ? Oh ! impossible ! *Give that in answer to the “TIME IMPROVED” Razor \* !!* The notion that

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\* This supposition is founded merely on the effect of contrast

## DIPPING A RAZOR INTO HOT WATER

makes it cut easier, has indeed foundation,—it really is the case. Several reasons I have had assigned why, by cutlers and others, but none appear satisfactory. One says, that “the edge gets clogged in the pores by particles of dirt, and the hot water cleanses it from them.” This, I think will not hold as good reason, because the pores are so small, that magnified a thousand fold they are still *invisible*. What particles are they that can clog them? The marks made on paper by a fine lead-pencil, are composed of much larger than these must be.

Another reason adduced is, that by immersion in hot water the steel expands and the edge becomes finer. But *expansion* is not *stretching*; and if the steel expands one way, it also expands every way, in thickness as well as width; therefore, as anything added to the edge in substance would reduce instead of increase the keenness, I think this is not a satisfactory reason, and that expansion does not take place, and cannot, *even in boiling water*.

The fact still remains the same, and for want of more likely known reasons, I will offer the following:—Warm steel is more congenial to the face than is the touch of cold, from which a shock is felt. Horn, feathers, *hair*, &c. consist of nearly the same substances, varying in proportions, are of the same nature, and powerfully acted on by *heat* and *cold*, heat softening and cold hardening. A bullock’s thick horn, made hot enough, becomes so soft that it may be *easily* cut through with a *knife*,\* and hair is acted on precisely the same (as instance, the effect of curling irons). It follows then that cold will have a contrary effect, and render the hair hard, stubborn,

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\* Remark the different actions of a Knife and a Saw, one will *sever* the horn *hot*, the other *cut* it *cold*.

and brittle ; this being the natural fact, it is plain that the coldness of the steel, on touching the face, communicates instantly with the *blood*, and thence to the *hair*, the hair having its root and being in the blood.—Conclusion : increase of heat *softens*, and decrease *hardens* the *hair*.—An edge free from impeding matter cuts cleaner and easier than one clogged or foul. Lather is fluid held by artificial fermentation in suspension or frothy state, and is (like snow) restored by heat to its fluid state ; therefore, the warm steel causing the lather, directly it passes on it, to dissolve, it easily slides up from the edge towards the back of the Razor, driven by the on-coming beard and lather, which must displace what is in its way. The easier this is done, the more *free* the *edge* is left from impeding matter to *act* as it goes. This effect may also be assisted by the water that will adhere to the blade.

## THE TEMPER OF THE RAZOR

now demands notice. As before observed, this is as important as education is to man, for be the steel never so fine, the forging a wonder, the grinding and finishing embracing transcendent skill, with an improper temper, “setting,” which is to render it fit for use, is impossible.

If too hard, the steel, as it is brought to an angle, will, when at the exact point, fall away in dust, or as soon as passed across a beard, be ripped off. If too soft, it will, as the angle is formed, make a fine hanging border, which will bend over from side to side like lead : this may be removed, but then, the Razor will be *blunt*, and with it, *on* or *off*, will not shave. Sometimes, by working the soft part away, the Razor becomes harder, but it will never be



really good, although, with some trouble, made to shave tolerably.

Now, so exact must the degree of temper be, that no man's senses have ever been sufficiently clear to hit always on the exact shade of perfection.\* Hence, the store set on a long-tried favourite, and the difficulty of matching Razors in their capabilities of execution. A Razor that is of proper temper will bear its edge to be drawn across a piece of *horn*, and into which it will make a positive cut, without suffering injury! †

The manufactured Razor has now passed under review. If the remarks thereon have impressed the reader with a conviction of the *nicety of quality*, and *delicacy of constitution* of a perfectly good Razor, the design is accomplished; one so *impressed* will be able to receive and act on instruction, because the subject is duly appreciated. Here, please to note, that CARE, and PROPER IMPLEMENTS are the great requisites; but especially *care*, to preserve from *injury*. For those mechanically disposed, a description of the best method of

### SETTING A RAZOR

will prove serviceable. There are several sorts of oil-stones, all useful for different tools, and it is *possible* to set a Razor on any of them, but the hone is more fitting, because that its grain is smoother, and cuts a finer surface, and with much less pressure than any other. It is a white vein of slate, found in the quarries in Germany; numbers are sent to England, among them many that are

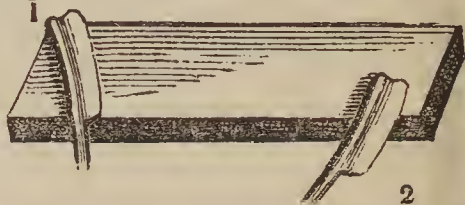
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\* See description of the genuine Diamond-Edge Tally Ho! Unpolished Razor.

† I have put many of the Diamond-Edge to this test, and never found one inadequate to it.

useless, being full of hard veins, knots, and pins ; some, from the texture being too coarse, or even *too fine*, are unfit: it is impossible to set a Razor properly on such. A good fine hone, well adapted to produce a Razor's edge, is invaluable.

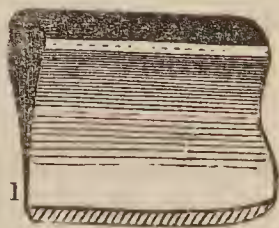
The hone must be dressed with sweet oil, perfectly clean and free from grit. Place the Razor in position 1, keeping *back and edge* fairly resting on the stone ; pass it down to Figure 2, when it will have only the point resting on the hone ;—lift it clear away, *raising the edge first*. It must be then turned round to the other side, which (this is all a reverse action of stropping) is best done keeping the back *upwards* (because the edge in this process goes first,) and you lose power by having to turn the Razor on the back ; besides, the *hold* is difficult to keep, and the Razor does not, so naturally I may say, come level on its *side* to the hone again ; but be sure to lift it fairly up and not to touch the edge in turning ; then putting the Razor in position *three*, pass it back along the hone as to Fig. 4, lift the edge and turn it again to position of Fig. 1.



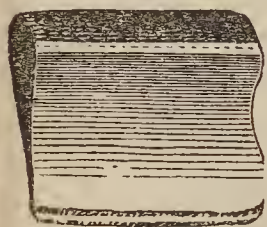
Keep this action in continuation, and you will get the edge a *perfect angle*.

If the Razor be very blunt, and requires much setting, there is no occasion to change sides at every pass, but you may give two or three on each side from end to end of the stone without removing the Razor ; but do one side equal with the other, and always finish off with light pressure and single passes.

When the edge is well set from heel to *point* (the point particularly being most used), it will be very keen on a good Razor, and show the “canal,” or line, along the side of the edge, *one regular shade*, alike from heel to point, and down to the *extreme edge* itself, like the shaded line in Fig. 1. This is the *test* and guide; for if this canal shows *different shades*, or on looking at it, the *side* of the edge is to be seen, there is not a true perfect edge—the



Razor will not work well, and soon require setting again; No. 2, shows one *imperfectly* done, because the edge is only *mended*, and not made *new* as it ought to be. If the stone be inclined to make a roughish edge, it is rendered much smoother by removing the oil from the face of the stone (the pores still hold some), and the Razor finished on it so; by doing this the grain of the stone is filled with the friction'd off steel, and will cut considerably smoother. The Razor must be laid very lightly on in doing this, or the edge will *stretch* out and become *unsolid*.



Supposing a Razor well set, it then requires

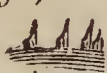
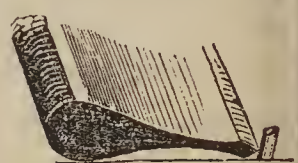


## STROPPING,

when you may shave at pleasure. Now, this is generally the only practical part the user has to perform, and every one knows how difficult it is to keep his Razors in the state he would wish them to be, and therefore the great difficulty of stropping well. This then is the lesson to learn:—The notion of a Razor being a saw must be totally abandoned, and every care taken, and effort made, to preserve



the edge from contact with any hostile body: a single particle of grit of any kind, that will make a visible scratch on the "canal," (the lines made by the hone,) will make a notch on the edge, which is indeed, as before remarked, a principle of *toothing*, a saw tooth, being neither more nor less than a clean cut notch. DO THIS—GET A GOOD EDGE, and TAKE CARE OF IT!

## OF STROPS

generally, professed to set Razors on the principle of a cobbler's rub-stone, those who use them will find they are not capable of making an edge to a Razor on the *true angular* principle, as is the hard surface and invariable action of the hone; they will, indeed, bring a blunt Razor up to a shaving point, but that is all. By such means the "canal" is converted into a circular or convex shape, so that when laid flat on the face, the edge takes the beard some little above the skin, with precisely the same effect as before shown, under the head of "Form," and reference to *thick edge*, viz., laying the hair down and slitting it up.  To remedy this, the back must be elevated,  when it is lost as a *guide*, and the position changed from a *cutting* to a *scraping* one, irritating the skin and making the whole operation very painful. Again, the same strop that by  gritty friction will bring a blunt Razor to a shaving point, will, at the same ratio, wear away a perfect acute angular one.\* 

\* To represent these effects plain, the parts of the edge are necessarily disproportioned. The smallness of the real object could not be made to show the effect.

Therefore, such strops will not keep a Razor in *perfect* order; nor will they make a blunt one perfect: *setting* is the only method of doing it. A piece of soft calf leather, greased, will preserve a good edge for a considerable time, and while it will shave by such means, it will do so easy and clean.\* I will now offer a

### RULE TO STROP BY.



OBSERVE.—Never lay a strop down *without* the case, or in any way allow *dust* or *grit* to get on the *surface*.

Lay your Razor on the strop, as Figure 1; draw it down the strop, and towards the point to Figure 2: now elevate the edge, so that the back lies on the strop, at the *point* end; while so, slide it *across* the strop till the heel is on—fall the edge over to the *right-hand*, and you have Figure 3; return it up the strop to Figure 4, when again *elevate* the *edge*, slide it across the strop; and this time, fall the edge towards your *left-hand*, giving Figure 1 again.

Keep on with this motion (be sure to do the point well, this part being most used, and requiring double as much as the part towards the heel where the weight of the hand is, on which account, it is more acted on by the strop) till your Razor is in shaving trim, the test of which should be, that it will sever a *hair*, held by thumb and finger, one inch or more therefrom.

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\* Please remark the description of the LONDON RAZOR STROP OF 1845, in Circular at the end of Pamphlet.

(If the Razor *do* this, you'll shave without pain,  
 And the Razor that *don't*, must be stropp'd o'er again.  
 But if with twice stropping it still will not do,  
 Than me, I'd much rather that it should shave you ;  
 Yet I will you no harm, even wish to relieve,  
 And can, if you'll only my doctrine believe ;  
 It is this : if well stropp'd, your Razor won't cut,  
 Don't trifle by hacking, but quick get it " set "  
 By a Barber, or Cutler—the Barber is better,  
 He knows about Chins, and, *should be* a Setter.  
 The Cutler may *make* well, because he's a maker—  
 A maker of Fiddles need not be a *scraper*.  
 Well, then, supposing fresh " set " is your Razor,  
 It still gives you pain and won't shave clean ; pray, Sir,  
 Don't waste time or money, or endure longer torture,  
 'Tis pity such things should e'er be sold, or bought sure ;  
 Being unfit for use, no treatment can mend it ;  
 In my little shop, I never would vend it.  
 Yet, I vend many, Quality infallible !  
 Of Steel, made as fine as ever was malleable !  
 And Temper so true—the right shade of perfection  
 Is certain ! So, please to, OBSERVE MY DIRECTION !  
 All those who have tried them their wonder declare,  
 To find *without pain* their Chins cleared of hair !  
 Therefore, take advice, it is much for your good ;  
 If you knew their excellence, I'm certain you would : }  
 I want to convince you, and would if I could.  
 A WARRANTY is given with each Razor sold,  
 Engaging, to all men, the young and the old,  
 To refund the money, paid for 'em on buying,  
 Should they prove unworthy, on properly trying ;  
 But none ever think to resign such a treasure, }  
 All pain is converted, at once, to a pleasure !  
 Pray pay me a visit the first time you've leisure. }  
 I'm mostly at home ; if not, the shop's open ;  
 Your order 's attended, as soon as 'tis spoken :  
 The principle is, an engagement ne'er break ;  
 And speaking the truth, my word you may take : }  
 So just *try* a RAZOR for *curiosity's* sake.—J. T.) }

By strictly adhering to this method, the novice will  
 soon find the motion come natural to his hand, and  
 there is scarcely a possibility of cutting a strop, which



should by all means be avoided. Begin first slowly, and increase to a rapid movement when thoroughly perfect. An expert hand at stropping can produce more effect in *one minute* than a clumsy hand will in five: if the Razor be not stropped *enough*, it were as well not done *at all*, and many from weariness give up too soon. This a cleaver stropper will not do, because he works easy; and by doing *enough* receives a gratifying reward.

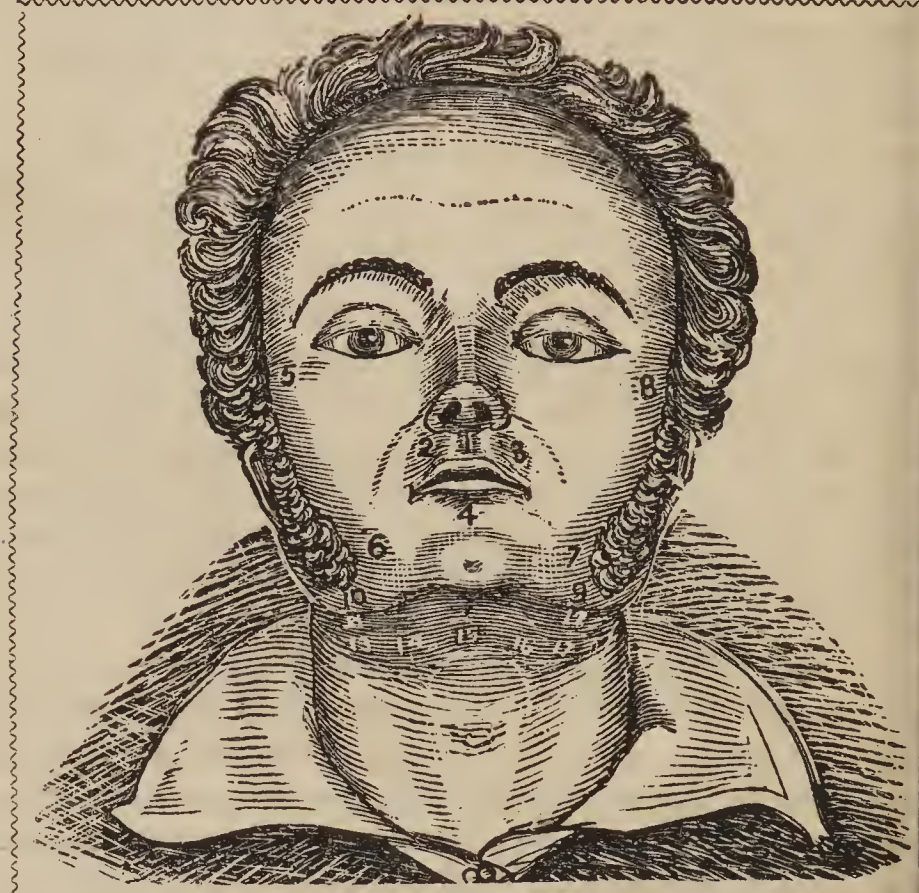
## SHAVING

is a very simple operation (the difficulty all lies in the Razor), and easy to perform. The face *must* be clean. Hot water helps the Razor by softening the beard; yet, a good tool will work well with cold water. Be cautious not to immerse a Razor in boiling water; it is trying the temper, and although I am not sure, believe it is prejudicial. Many degrees below boiling will do as well, and all danger avoided. Work the lather well on the beard, making it carry sufficient moisture.

As regards soap, there are many fine sorts made for the purpose, and it is not of much consequence which is used. Palm oil soap is pleasant to the skin and even taste, and of moderate price; three pennyworth will last half a year: but a *badger hair brush* is a great acquisition, it lays a regular and even coat of lather (hog hair draws it away, leaving only a line on each side) wherever it touches; and does not irritate the skin, by working the alkali the soap contains into the pores, as does the hard-scrubbing of the softest hog hair.

After shaving cleanse the Razor with a *clean soft* cloth: always strop it on the plain side of the strop, leaving it in a condition to use when next wanted.

Lay the Razor flat; the least motion will impede it; avoid stopping frequently, or *scraping*. The Razor should *cut* close, and take away all above the skin. It may be needful to go twice over the chin, or to *clear stragglers*. Much depends on the Razor and how it is handled. The handiest way, if practised, is to make



- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| ROUND THE CHIN.  | { One cut from 9 to 10, and another from 11 to 12.                                   |
| THE FACE.....    | { Right, from 5 down to 6.<br>Left, from 7 up to 8                                   |
| UNDER LIP. ....  | One cut upwards, No. 4.  |
| UNDER NOSE. .... | { One cut 3, left to right.<br>One cut 1, downwards.<br>One cut 2, left to right.    |
| NECK .....       | { Five or six cuts, up or down, as Nos. 18, 19, to 20. Cutting upwards shaves close. |

To c'lear the jaws under the ears, pull the cheek as much round to front as possible with the left hand, on which, as a guide, rest the right or Razor hand: right jaw cut downwards—left jaw cut upwards. Old hands who have established a method had as well not depart from it; but for young beginners,—they may as well commence right, if there be one way better than another.

Gentlemen, I have told you “the face *must* be clean.” Pray attend to this rule. A Razor is not made to scrape road-sand away, and never will be.

Try the rule of conduct here laid down, and if not satisfied with the result, I recommend you to GET BETTER RAZORS.

Here, gentlemen, my task is finished. Simple as the subject may be, there exists ignorance to an extent that has long been my surprise and regret. If the perusal and study of this tract prove tedious and unentertaining, please to remember, that this is not a modern affair—*shaving* has been in *practice* almost as *long as beards have grown*. I cannot, therefore, make a novelty of it; my aim is to inform you what A GOOD RAZOR OUGHT TO BE, AND IS; WHAT IS ITS BEST AND MOST PERFECT STATE FOR EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE; HOW TO MAKE IT SO, AND HOW TO KEEP IT SO. If thereby you obtain any mitigation of former suffering, my little trouble and your attention will not be ill rewarded.

Permit me now to trouble you with a few words, for myself, and refer you to the next page—my card, and circular.

And remain, gentlemen,

Yours, very obediently,

10, BISHOPSGATE ST., WITHOUT, JNO. TEETGEN.  
March, 1845.



CARD.

---

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COMB AND BRUSH MAKER,**

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GERMAN HONES, FANCY TURNERY, &c.

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(CORPORATE CUTLERS' MARK)

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PROPRIETOR, INVENTOR, AND ONLY MAKER OF  
**J. TEETGEN'S LONDON RAZOR STROP of 1845**  
AND POCKET DRESSING CASE.

CUTLERY GROUND & SET BY SKILFUL HANDS.

## CIRCULAR.

---

JOHN TEETGEN is earnestly desirous of returning thanks to all those by whom he has been so kindly supported from the first opening his present establishment, and embraces this opportunity of expressing his deep sense of gratitude for favours received. He is rejoiced that the principle of

SELLING GOOD AND WELL MADE ARTICLES, AT MODERATE PRICES;  
MARKING EVERY ARTICLE IN PLAIN AND LEGIBLE FIGURES;

MAKING BACK ALL GOODS THAT ARE NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY;

has been appreciated; he is therefore resolved to continue the same system, and by all other means endeavour to deserve patronage. Respecting the peculiarities of the

### DIAMOND-EDGE UNPOLISHED "TALLY HO" RAZORS,

J. T. is anxious to give a correct notion of their merits. They are truly an achievement of MODERN SCIENCE; and, with no more labour or work bestowed on them than to render them as excellent as Art can, and as only of late Art ever could render them, they have every stroke of work, and that done in the most skilful manner, that is needful. THE STEEL they are made from cannot by possibility be excelled, and scarcely equalled, and the *Temper* is imparted by such an accurate process, that the least degree below excellence is almost *impossible*! and (the most important *singularity* in these Razors) they are every one subjected to a *severe* and *secret* TEST, by which, should there by chance or accident be the least defect in this vital quality, it is at once detected, when such are broken up *unfinished*, because *unfit*. Owing to this it is, that of the thousands that have passed through the hands of J. T. EVERY ONE would endure to have its *edge* in fine shaving trim drawn over and cutting into a PIECE of HORN without being deteriorated. J. T. solicits Gentlemen to witness this trial of quality. They have also one other singularity assisting to excellence, which it is unnecessary to disclose. An *unequivocally worded*

### SIGNED WARRANTY IS GIVEN WITH EACH RAZOR.

THE PRICES enable all classes to furnish themselves with one or two of these desirable implements, 2s.,—2s. 3d., 2s. 6d., and Ivory, 3s. 6d. each, and upwards, case included.

THE BLADES ARE ALL OF ONE QUALITY;

Every one examined, set, packed, and sealed by J. T.

[TURN OVER.]

## JNO. TEETGEN'S LONDON RAZOR STROP OF 1845.

Is the result of much study and experiment, prosecuted for the attainment of a real RAZOR PRESERVER! and J. T. feels confident that his STROP is fully entitled to that designation. Its object is to retain on a Razor the

FINE PERFECT ANGULAR EDGE, which of all forms is the *best* and most *efficient* for the purpose.

J. T. has no notion that a good thing should be only for those who can afford a high price, and has prepared to furnish his *Strop* at from **1s.** to **5s. 6d** each.

THIS STROP is intended to *keep* Razors in *perfect* order, and will do its duty; not by *Magic*, but NATURAL means rightly employed.

It was remarked a few days back by a Country Gent. that "In all times there has been some particular Razor Strop in use, but the celebrity of all has given way to a successor." This is a fact; and the inference fairly is, that the *proper one* had not been designed. It remains for the public to judge of the merits of the one now offered, and if founded on true

PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES, it will stand at least as good a chance of favour as others

---

### J. T.'s Stock consists of the usual articles of the COMB AND BRUSH TRADE.

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TORTOISESHELL COMBS  
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in March 1872

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